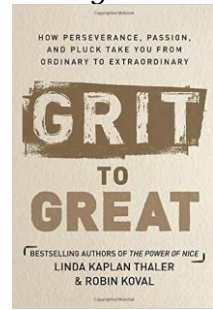


Grit to Great:

How Perseverance, Passion, and Pluck Take You From Ordinary to Extraordinary

Book's Argument: Grit and tenacity are absolutely essentials to success. The authors wager that we need grit to get great and emphasize the importance of hard work, perseverance, and character. Equal parts of diligence, determination, pluck, and a willingness to confront adversity and failure head-on compose grit.



Key Takeaways: Research suggests that passion and perseverance matter more than talent or intelligence when it comes to being successful.

Grit is about... sweat, not swagger
 character, not charisma
 stick-to-itiveness & survival over secrets to success

Grit is the result of a hard-fought struggle, a willingness to take risks, a strong sense of determination, working relentlessly toward a goal, taking challenges in stride, and having the passion and perseverance to accomplish difficult things, even if you are wallowing in the most difficult circumstances. Grit can be learned.

The self-esteem movement is a flop. Children who are outperformed may give up rather than fight to improve, and those who do win may not feel compelled to keep trying as hard if even the losers get praise.

Everyone may benefit from being taught to strive – encouraging grit and resilience by:

- Being pushed out of our comfort zone
- Learning how to take losing in stride
- Improving our problem-solving skills
- Finishing whatever we start
- Letting children do things for themselves

There exist different levels of grit (Bob Deutsch, cognitive neuroscientist). There is no unified, generic, all-or-nothing concept. It is a trait that can be developed, a skill that can be learned when a person is exposed to the right kind of training, experiences, and practice.

Best Quotes: “The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.” – Vince Lombardi “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit.” – Aristotle “You’re not special... The fulfilling life, the distinctive life, the relevant life, is an achievement, not something that will fall into your lap because you’re a nice person or Mommy ordered it from the caterer.” – David McCullough, Jr., commencement address to the Class of 2012 at Wellesly High School “The endgame belongs to the truly diligent...those who have grit.” – Kaplan Thaler and Koval

Why It's Important: Natural ability can get a person a couple of rungs up the proverbial ladder. However, it is an ability to bounce back after hardship and rejection that takes them the rest of the way. In our profession, we need people who possess and develop appropriate levels of grit.

Linda Kaplan Thaler and Robin Koval (2015)